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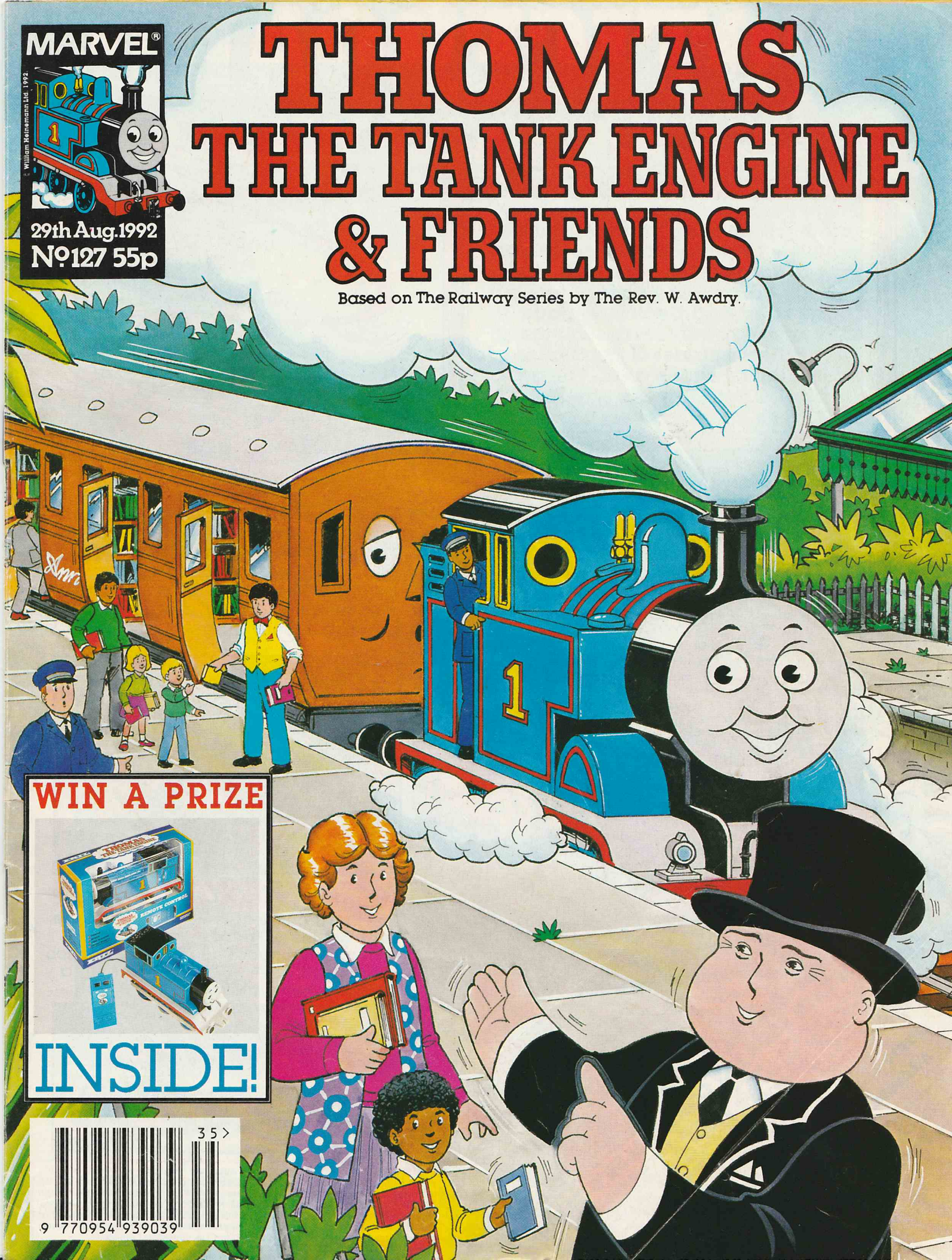
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



WIN A PRIZE

INSIDE!

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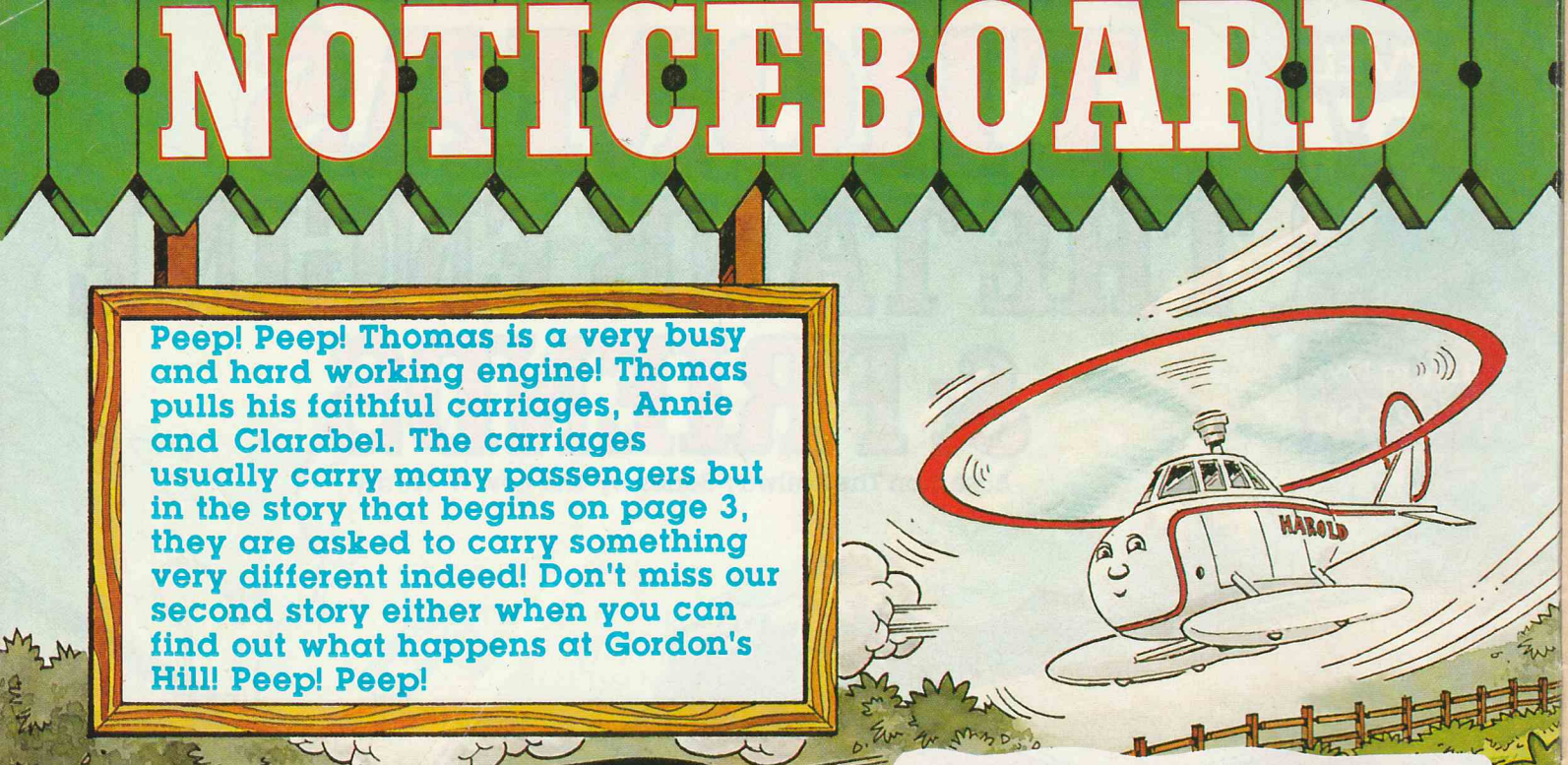
NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! Thomas is a very busy and hard working engine! Thomas pulls his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel. The carriages usually carry many passengers but in the story that begins on page 3, they are asked to carry something very different indeed! Don't miss our second story either when you can find out what happens at Gordon's Hill! Peep! Peep!



THOMAS KEYRINGS!

ERTL (UK) Ltd have just issued this fantastic new range of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Keyrings** *(featured below)*. The range includes **Thomas**, **James**, **Edward** and **Percy** and they are now widely available from all good toyshops!

OUR NEXT ISSUE!

Don't miss our next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. You could be the lucky winner of a fantastic selection of toys from *ERTL (UK) Ltd*, including a **3-piece diecast playset** (see below).

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Name .....

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Postcode ..... **Age** ...

THOMAS TOKEN

ABC

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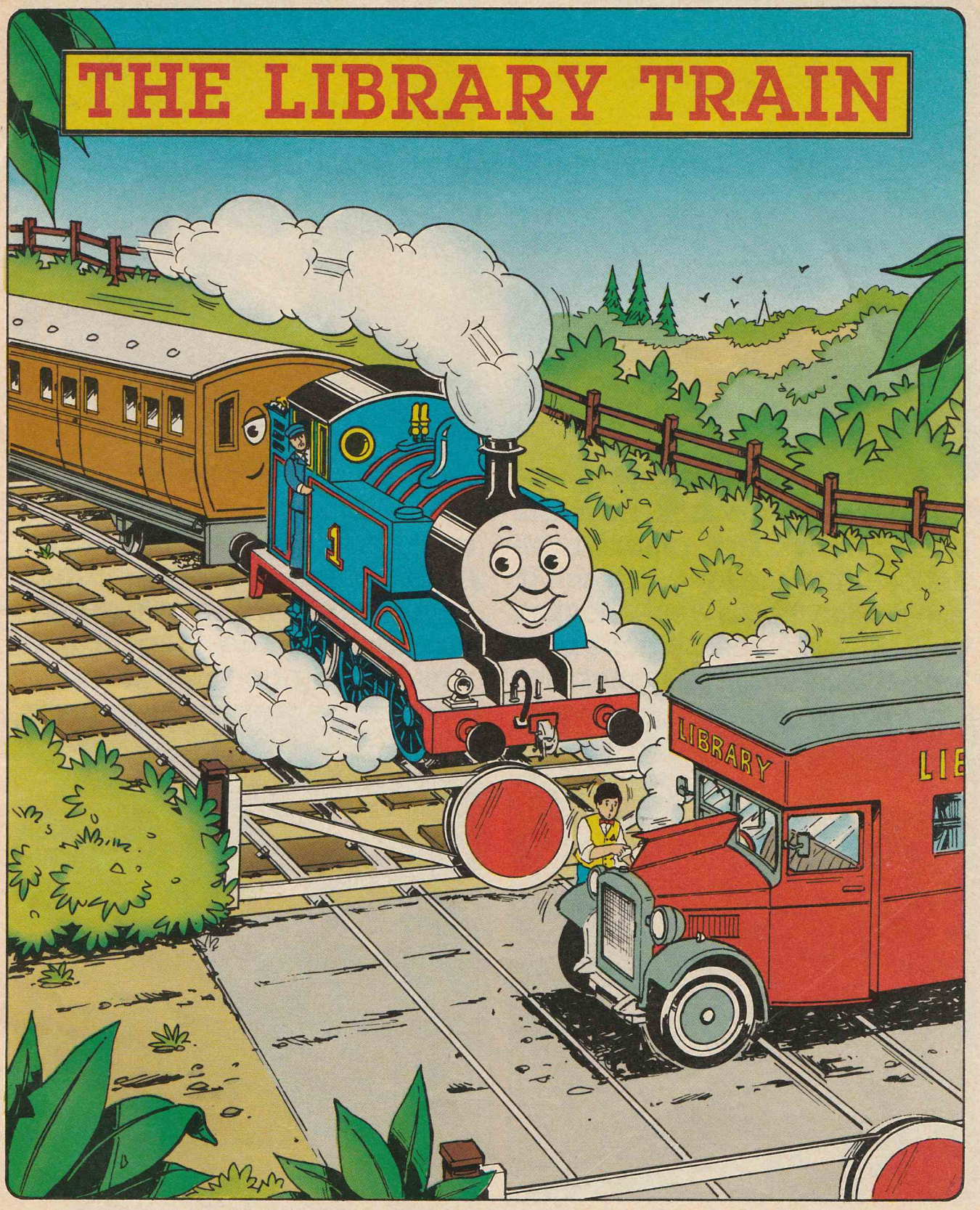
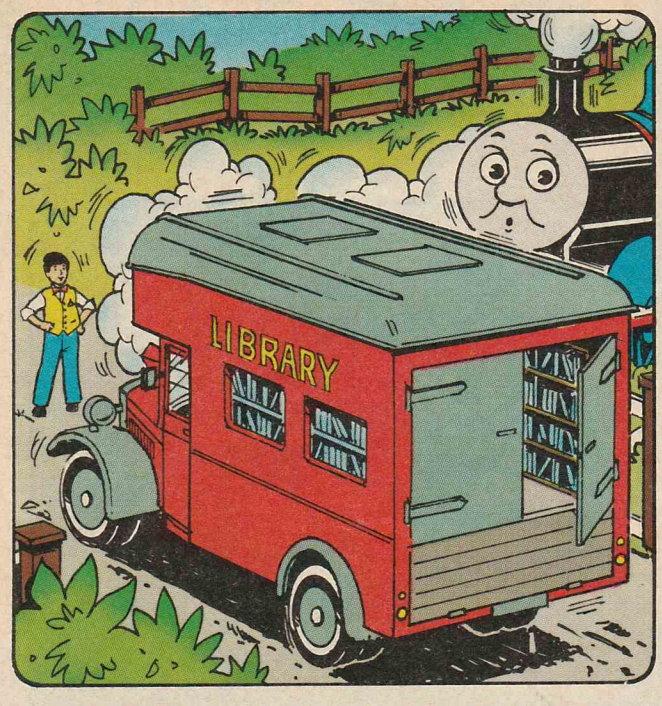
THE LIBRARY TRAIN



1. Thomas was pulling Annie and Clarabel along his branch line. It was a bright sunny morning and Annie and Clarabel were full of passengers travelling to work and to school.

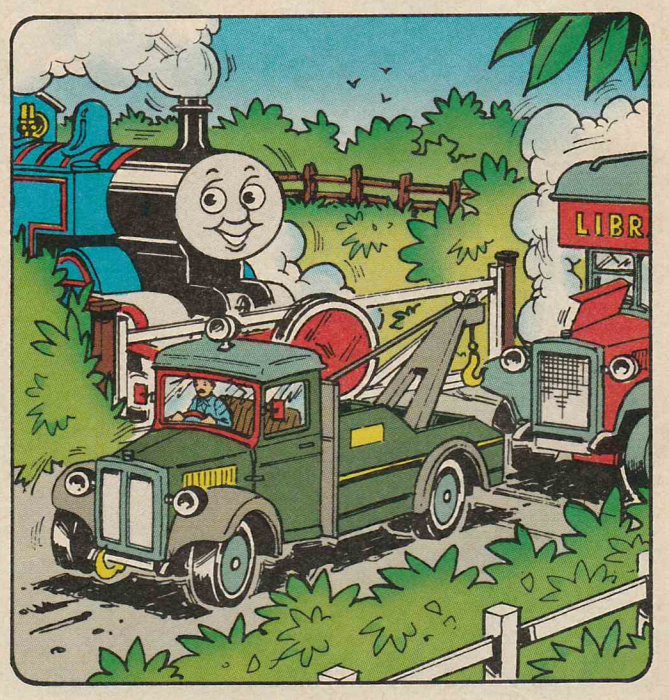
2. But as Thomas approached the level crossing, he saw a big lorry blocking the track. The driver of the lorry was peering under the bonnet at the lorry's motor.



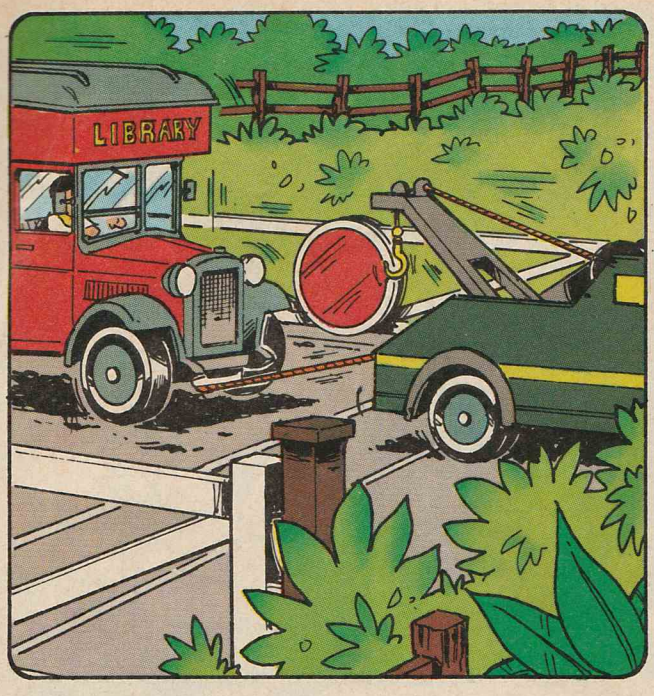
3. As Thomas waited for the obstruction to be cleared, he noticed that the lorry was full of books. The books were stacked on lots of shelves. "What sort of lorry is this?" asked Thomas.

4. "It's a mobile library and it travels to the villages and farms near your branch line!" replied Thomas's driver. Meanwhile, the lorry driver was looking concerned.

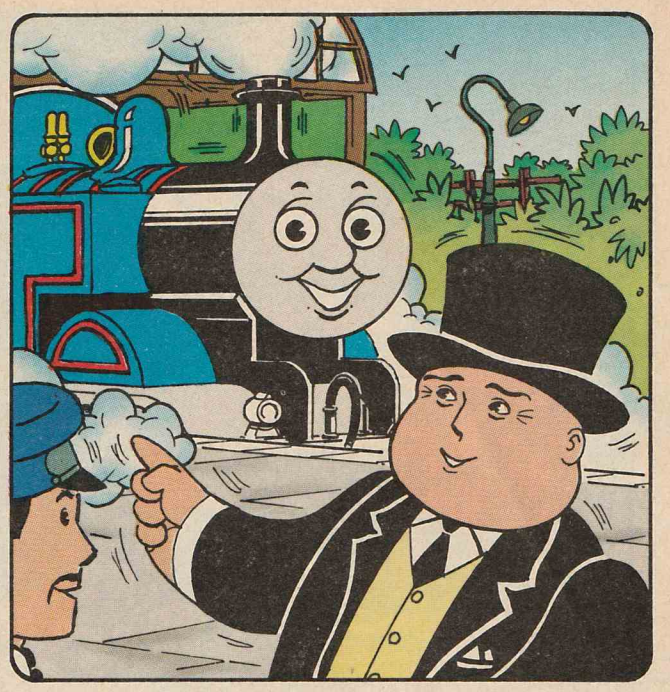
5. "My lorry has broken down!" confirmed the driver. "I've phoned the garage and they are sending a repair van right away!" Thomas's driver and guard told the passengers.



6. "Oh, dear!" sighed the lorry driver. "Now people won't get their books until the lorry is repaired!" Thomas wanted to help. Soon a repair van arrived. Thomas was excited!

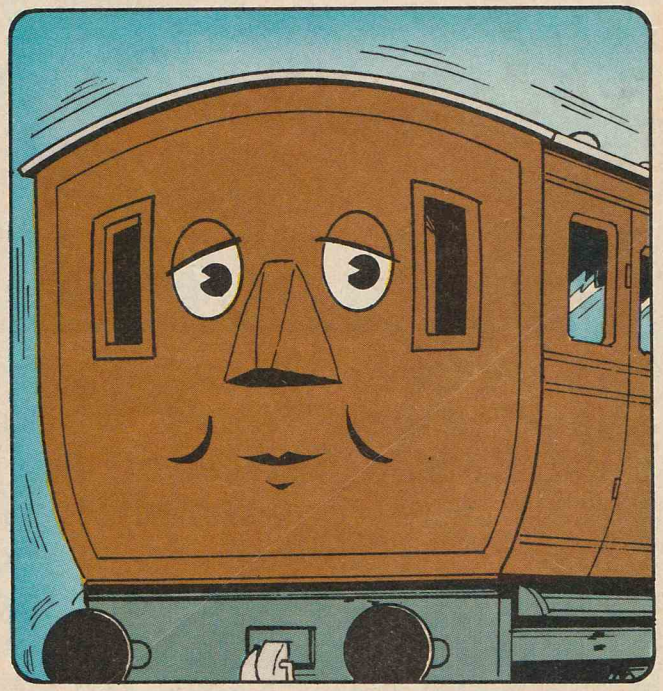


7. A stout rope was tied between the van and the lorry. The van then pulled the lorry safely off the level crossing. Thomas was very pleased to be on his way again!

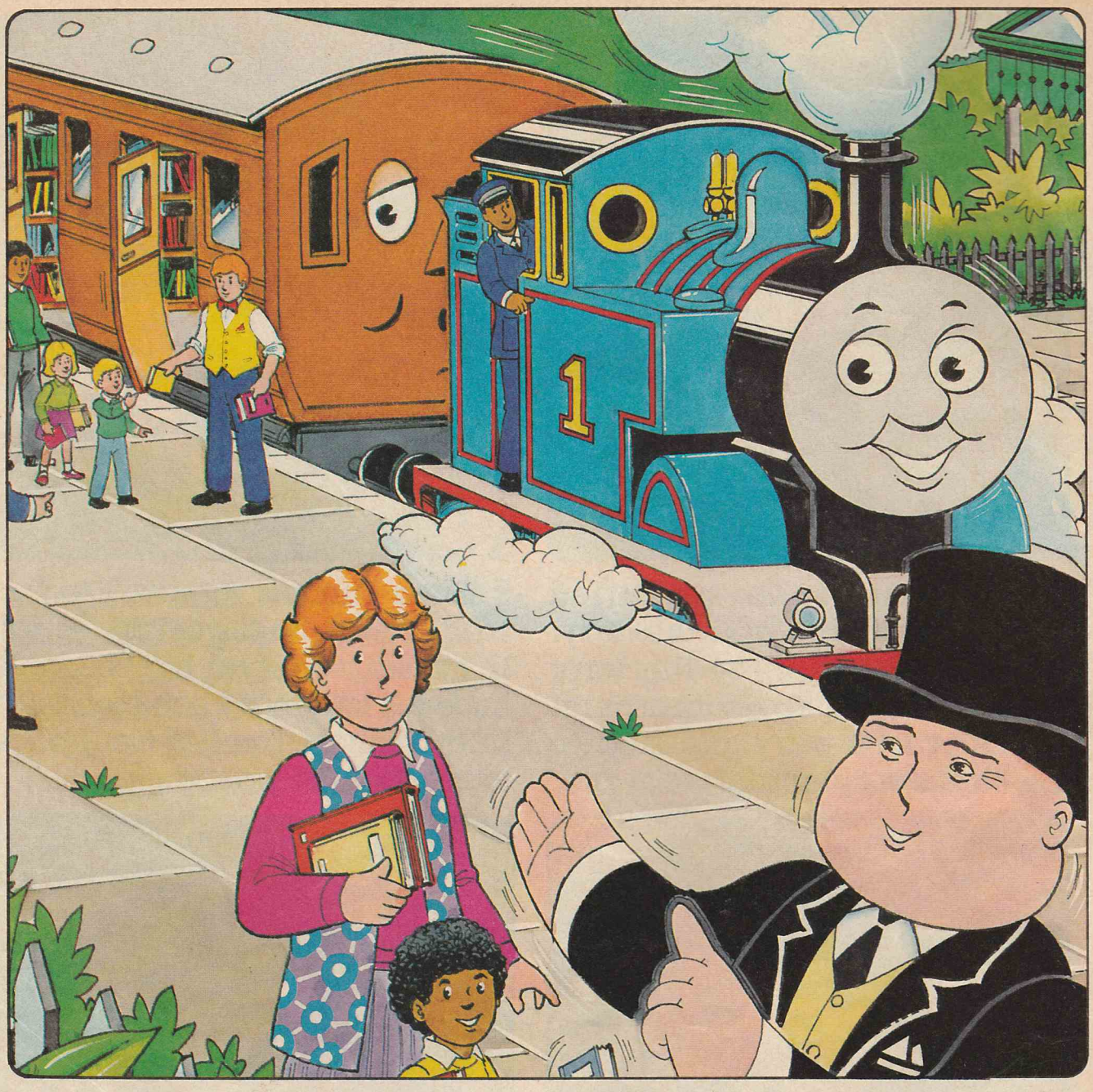


8. When Thomas returned to the Main Station, his driver told the Fat Controller what had happened. "I hope the lorry has been mended," said Thomas. The Fat Controller telephoned the garage.

9. Afterwards, he came to see Thomas, Annie and Clarabel. "The lorry won't be on the road again for a week, but you may be able to help, Thomas!" said the Fat Controller.



10. "We can load the books into Annie and Clarabel for you to take them to the villages!" continued the Fat Controller. "Oh, yes, sir!" said Thomas, eagerly. "I'd like to help!



11. Annie and Clarabel were sent to the Works where engineers fitted wood over their seats to make shelves. Bertie the Bus arrived at the Main Station with all the books from the mobile library. The lorry driver came, too. He loaded the books into Annie and Clarabel. They were coupled to Thomas and he set off along his branch line.

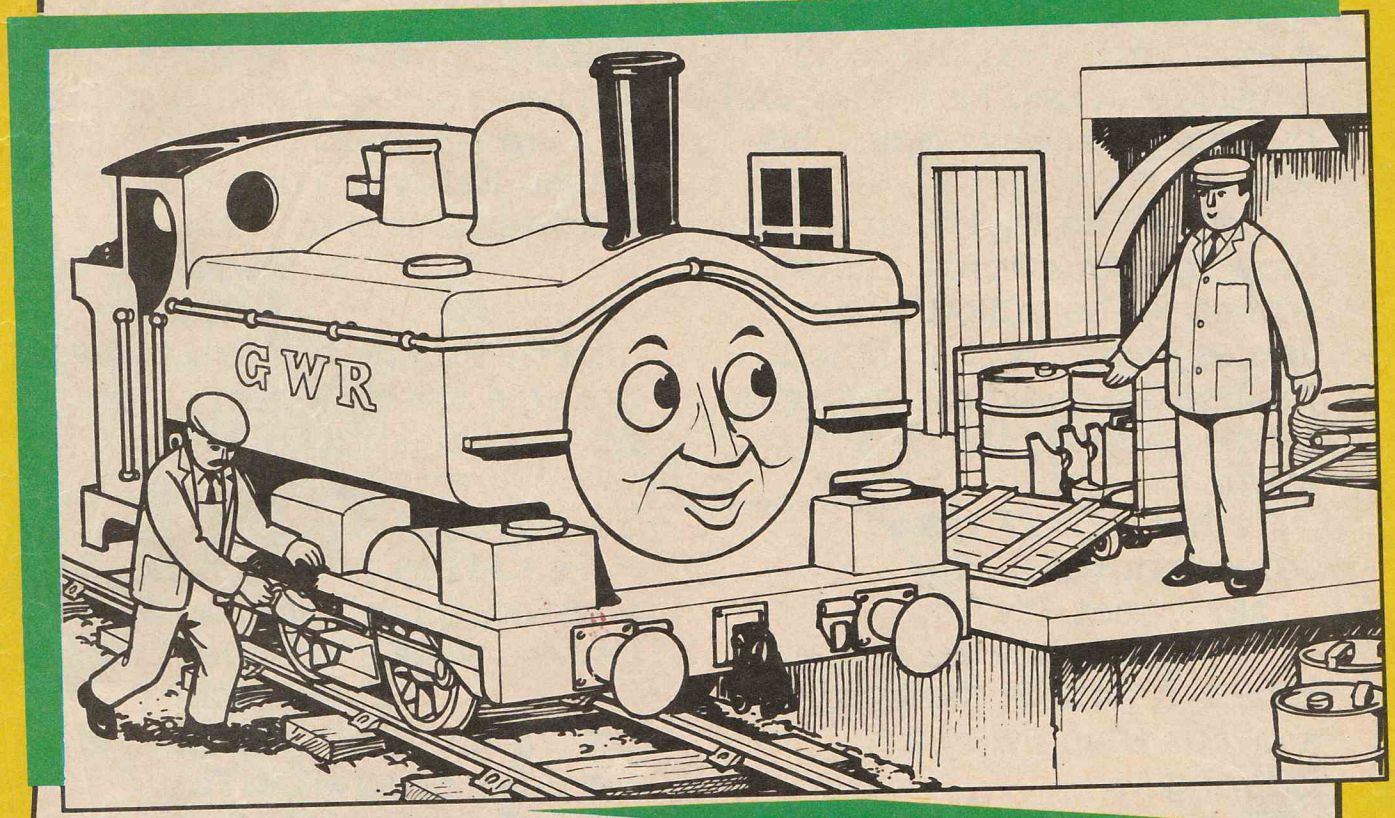
12. The mobile library driver rode with Thomas, who stopped at every station so that people could borrow books. Everyone thought it was a splendid idea. Thomas smiled happily. It seemed strange to see people queuing up on the platform for books! "I like pulling a library train!" said Thomas importantly. Annie and Clarabel had to agree!

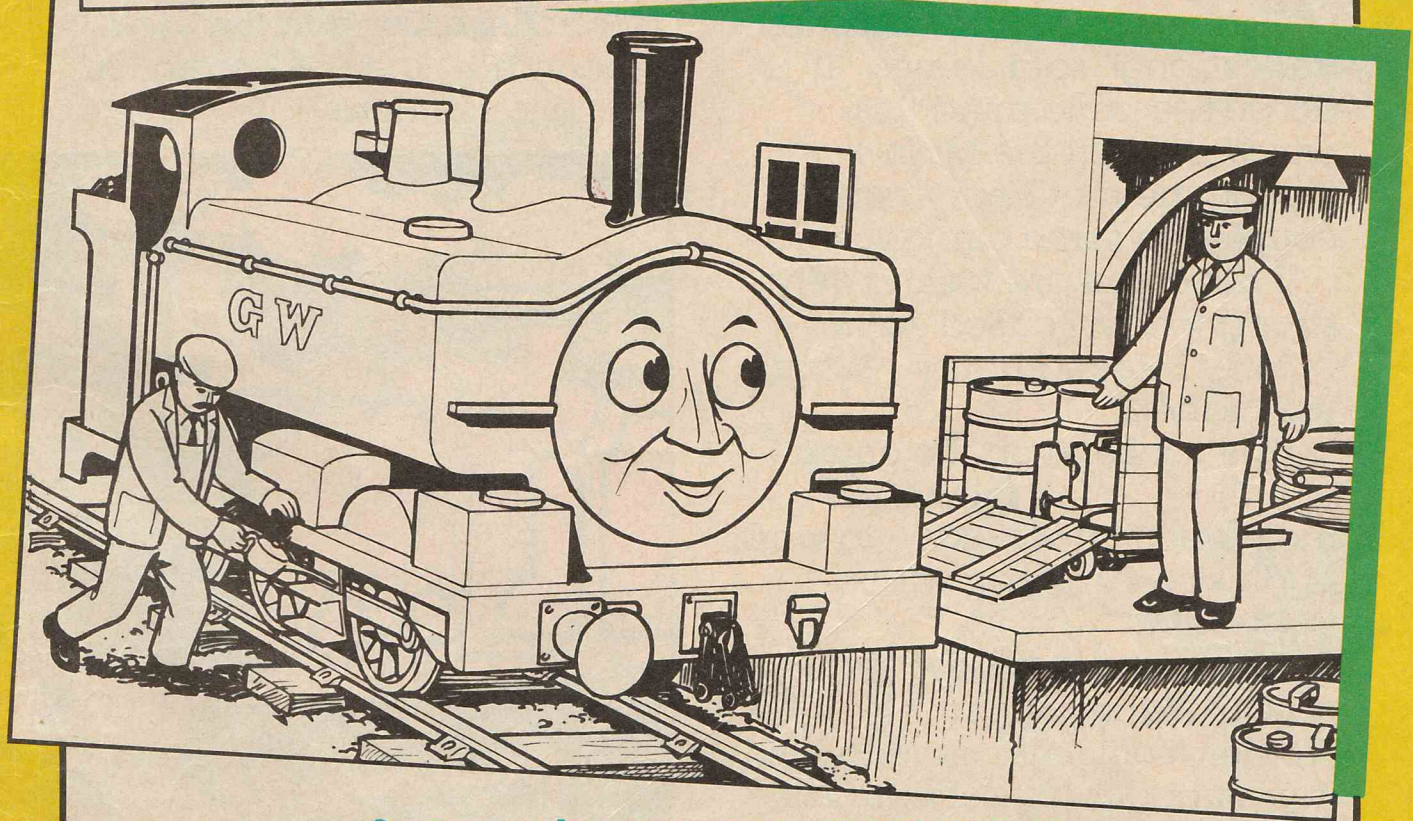
THE END!

In our next issue: Thomas and the old house!

PUZZLE TIME!

Do you remember the story when Duck delivered oil cans to the garage?Here are two pictures of Duck-but they are not the same! Can you spot 5 differences between them and draw a ring around them? The answers are below!





In the second picture:There is one oil can missing, one of Duck's buffers is missing, the garage door is missing, Duck's handrail is missing and the 'R' in 'GWR'(Great Western Railway) is missing.

A Read Aloud story!

THE LITTLE ENGINE!

It was a very windy day on the Island of Sodor. James, the Red Engine, was pulling a goods train on the Main line. It was hard work. The wind whistled around his funnel and buffers, and blew against his wheels.

"Bother! The wind is trying to blow me backwards!" huffed James. As he pulled along, James passed a church near the line, he could see a strange shape on top of the church tower.

"Is that a bird?" asked James's driver.

"No! James. It's a weather vane. It only has the shape of a bird. It turns in the wind to show us which way it is blowing."

"That weather vane must be very strong!" said James. "It doesn't seem to mind this wind!" Back at the Main Station, he met Henry being coupled to some carriages.

"I hope you are feeling very strong today," called James.

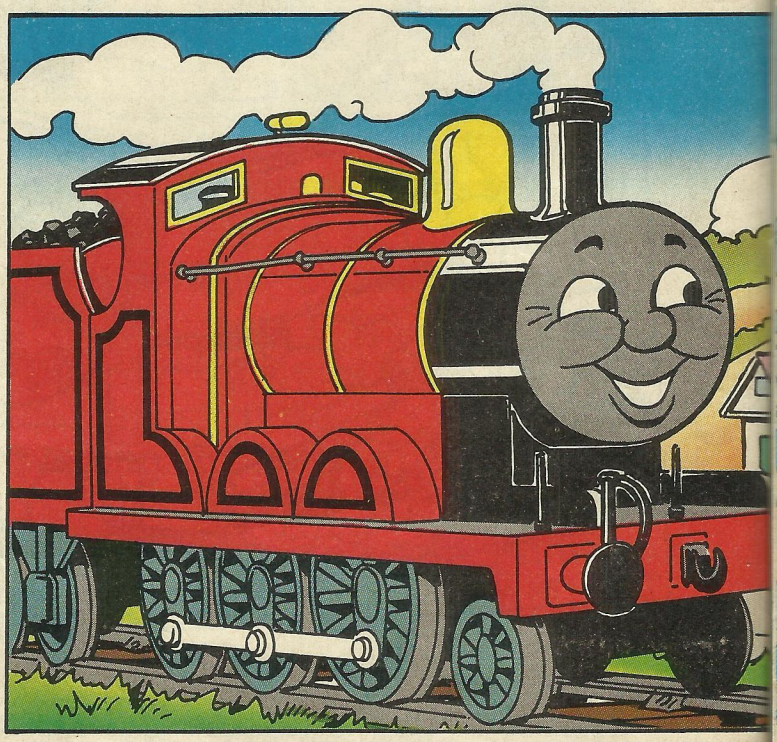
"Why?" asked Henry. "What's the matter?"

"The cockerel on the church weather-vane is facing the main line! We will have to work against very strong winds today!"

"Strong gusts to slow me down," sighed Henry. "Botheration! I will have to pull my carriages harder to make sure I run on time!" Henry set off with his passenger train. The wind was getting stronger and stronger. His fireman stoked the coal as fast as he could into Henry's furnace.

"I need a good head of steam to keep up speed in this wind," puffed Henry. He arrived by the church and saw the weather-vane. Suddenly, Henry heard a snap and the cockerell came tumbling down from the tower. A gust of wind had blown it right off! The weather-vane fell on to the track in front of Henry.

"Peep! Peep! Look out!" he whistled. "I can't stop in time!" Henry's wheels ran over the weather-vane and broke it in half. When Henry returned to the yard, he saw the Fat Controller talking to the vicar. Afterwards, the Fat Controller came to see Henry.



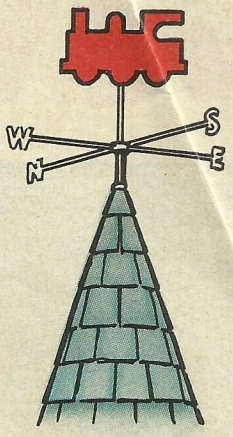
"The vicar has told me about the accident" said the Fat Controller.

"I'm very sorry, sir," said Henry. "I couldn't avoid running over the weather-vane. I couldn't stop in time! It was the wind that caused the accident!"

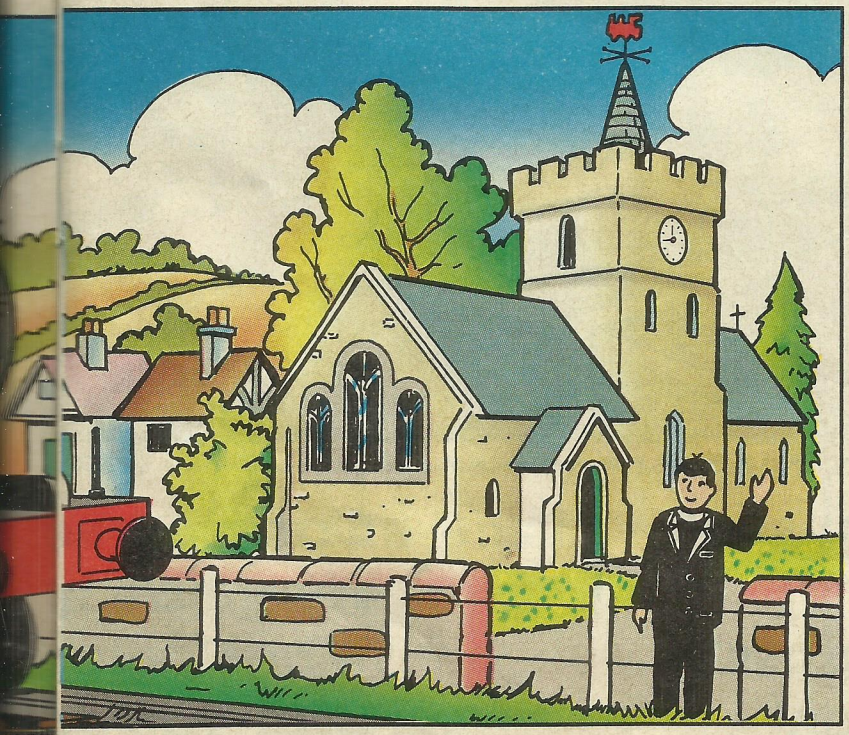
"Not to worry, Henry, the vicar told me it wasn't your fault!" said the Fat Controller kindly.

"Even so, I'm going to ask the railway engineers to make the vicar a new weather-vane!" The engineers used scraps of old engine metal to make the weather vane. When it was ready, they took it to the church. The men climbed up ladders and fitted it to the roof top of the tower.

Next morning, the wind was still blowing hard. James was pulling some trucks on the main line. He was becoming very impatient with the continual strong gusts of wind. He tried his best to go smoothly. But the wind rocked his trucks and made them clatter and bump about. They were even more troublesome than usual.



weather-vane



By the church, James looked up and saw the new weather-vane.

"Cinders and ashes!" he gasped in surprise. "The weather-vane has been put back on the church roof!" It was in the shape of a little engine. James felt very cheerful. He liked the new weather-vane. So did all the other engines that puffed along the main line. They whistled happily as they went past it.

"Hello, little engine!" they called. In the shed, that evening, the engines talked about the new weather-vane.

"It really is splendid!" said James.

"What a clever idea of the Fat Controller's to make the weather-vane in the shape of an engine!" Henry agreed.

"We don't mind seeing a little engine puffing about in the wind, just like us!" he chuckled.

THE END!

Level crossing

Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
What is he puffing across?
Point to the big balloon!

Can you see
Why has he
What colour
Can you spo

g!

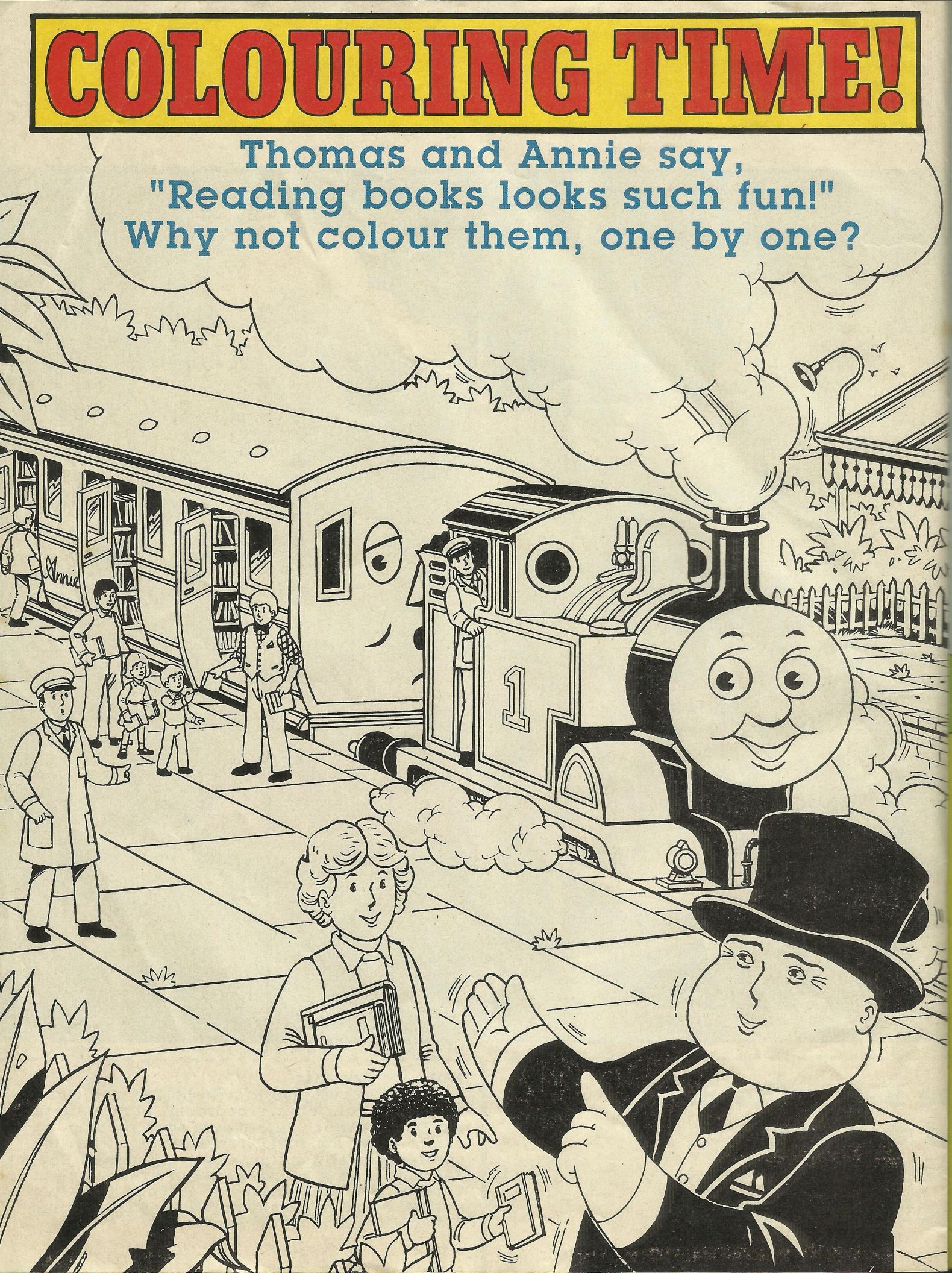
see Bertie the Bus?
he stopped?
our is Bertie?
spot the golfers?

Note for parents
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: On the golf course!

COLOURING TIME!

Thomas and Annie say,
"Reading books looks such fun!"
Why not colour them, one by one?

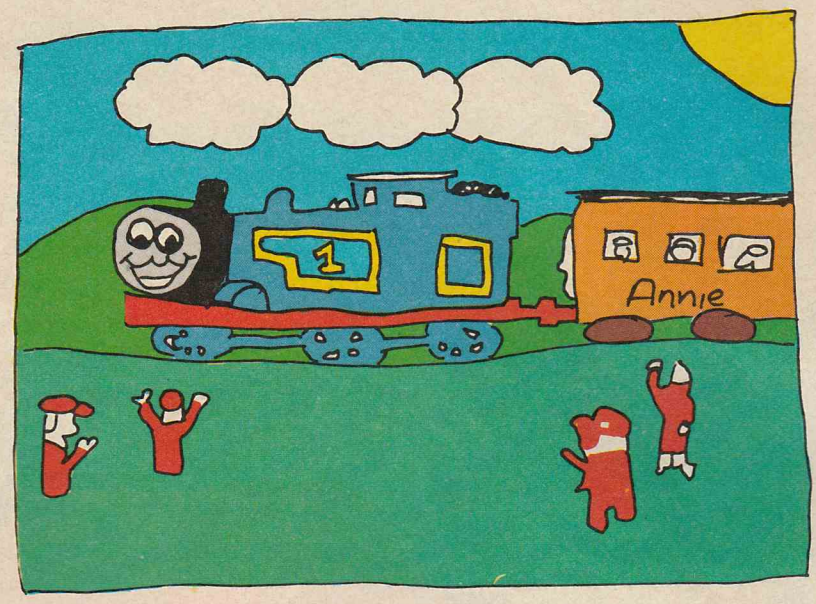


JOIN THE DOTS!

Early in the morning, quiet as can be!
What do you think the campers can see?

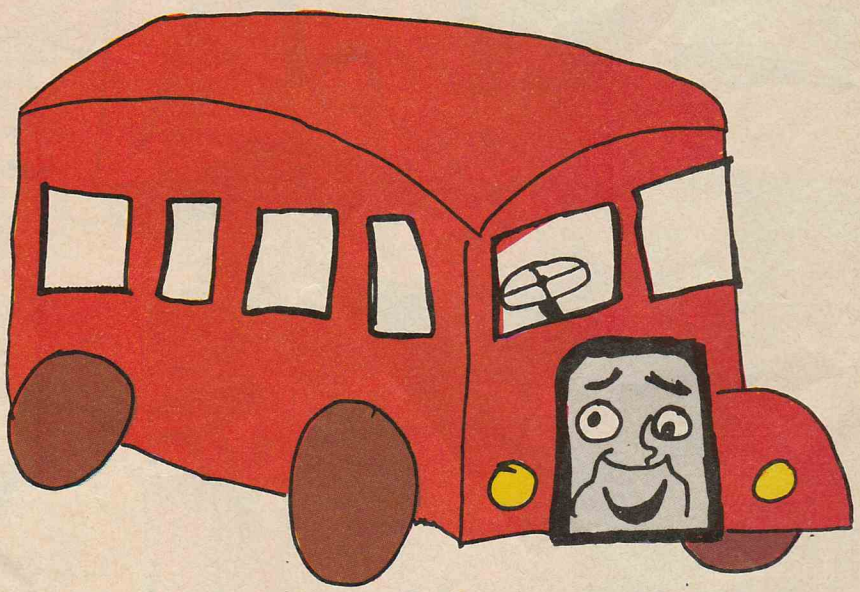
The Fat Controller's Picture Gallery!

Here are some of the many splendid drawings that you have sent in to us! I have chosen some special individual pictures of three of my engines!



Amy Wright of Roxbrughshire has used her brightest crayons to produce a really splendid picture of **Thomas** and **Annie** passing through the countryside! Congratulations!

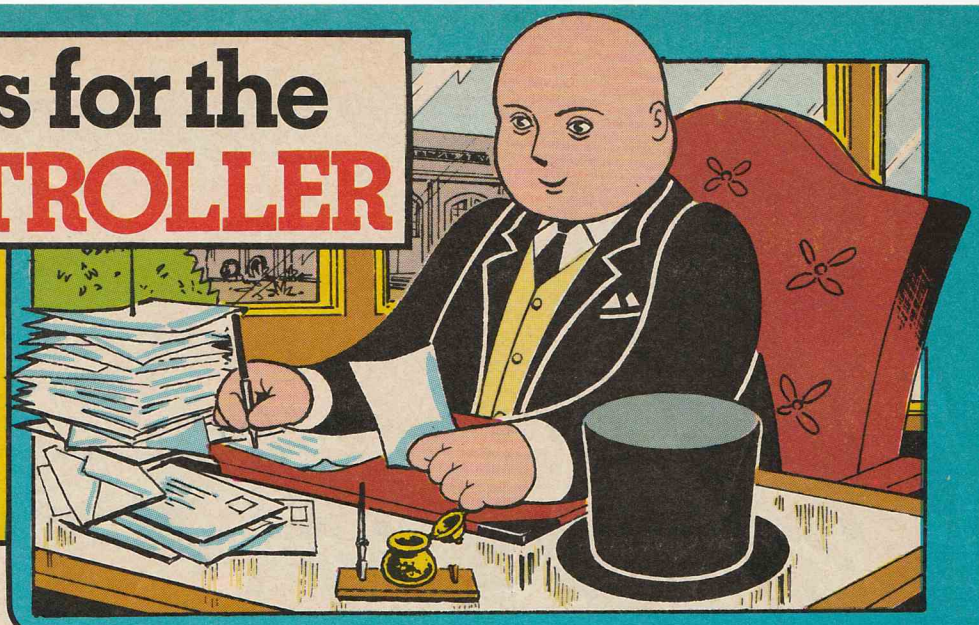
Look at this charming painting of **Percy**. This was sent in by **Lisa Foster** from Poole in Dorset!



Bertie the Bus is one of the brightest of all Thomas's friends. This cheerful picture was sent in by **Alex Bedford** from Stourbridge!

Thank you all for sending in your pictures! We are sorry that we can only print a few. If you would like to draw a picture and have a chance of seeing it printed in a future issue, please send it to: The Fat Controller's Picture Gallery, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

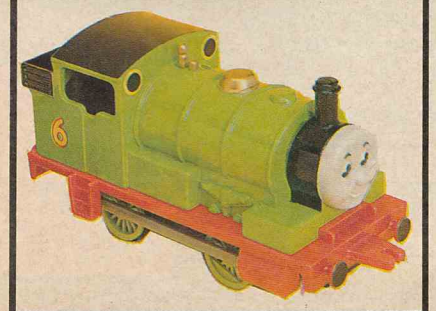
STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
I think that Thomas and all his friends would like to come to the railway station where I live. It has been closed for a very long time and it will be opened again soon. It's part of the **'Settle-Carlisle'** line and I am sure Thomas and Percy would enjoy steaming along it!

Love from **Paul Woodworth**, aged 2.

Yes! I am also particularly fond of the 'Settle-Carlisle' line and I am pleased to hear that it is still being maintained very well!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid motorised model of Percy from *ERTL (UK)* Ltd.



THOMAS'S STORY!

Dear Fat Controller,
I liked the story about the cameraman who climbed on top of Thomas to film a 'cross-country' race! My dad is a cameraman and he liked it too!

Love from **Sarah Jane Maunder**, aged 3.

Gracious me! I do remember that story very well! I was especially concerned when the cameraman lost his balance and fell over. I think Thomas was trying to reach the finishing line before the cross-country runners!

GORDON'S COACHES!

Dear Fat Controller,
Thomas pulls Annie and Clarabel and Toby pulls Henrietta! What are the names of Gordon's coaches?

Love from **Daniel Church**, aged 2.

*Well Daniel! Gordon pulls two very special green and yellow coaches which are known together as the **'Express'**!*

BIRTHDAYS!

Jonathan Maginess (35750), Andrew Joyner, William.J.Dickenson (38565), Azmi Sbaiti (38509), Sarah Byron-Moore, Christopher Tunstall (35543), Ben Such, Eleanor Collyer, Graham Ian Lamb, Lee Martin White (31323), Daniel James White, Steven Sadler (36260),

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least nine weeks in advance!

Yours

Sir Topham Hatt

The Fat Controller!

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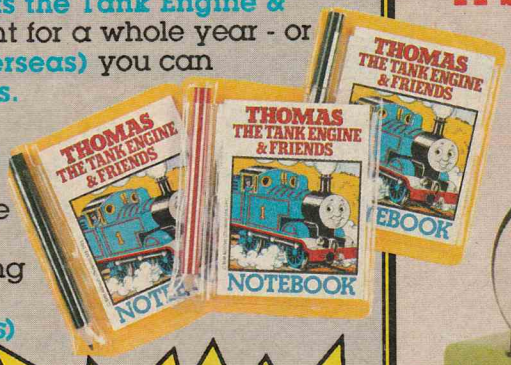

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A SPLENDID GIFT FOR YOU!

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SUBSCRIPTION FORM ▼

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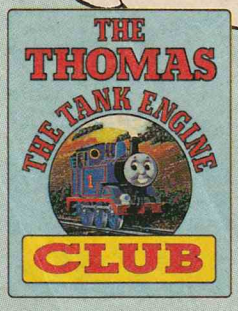

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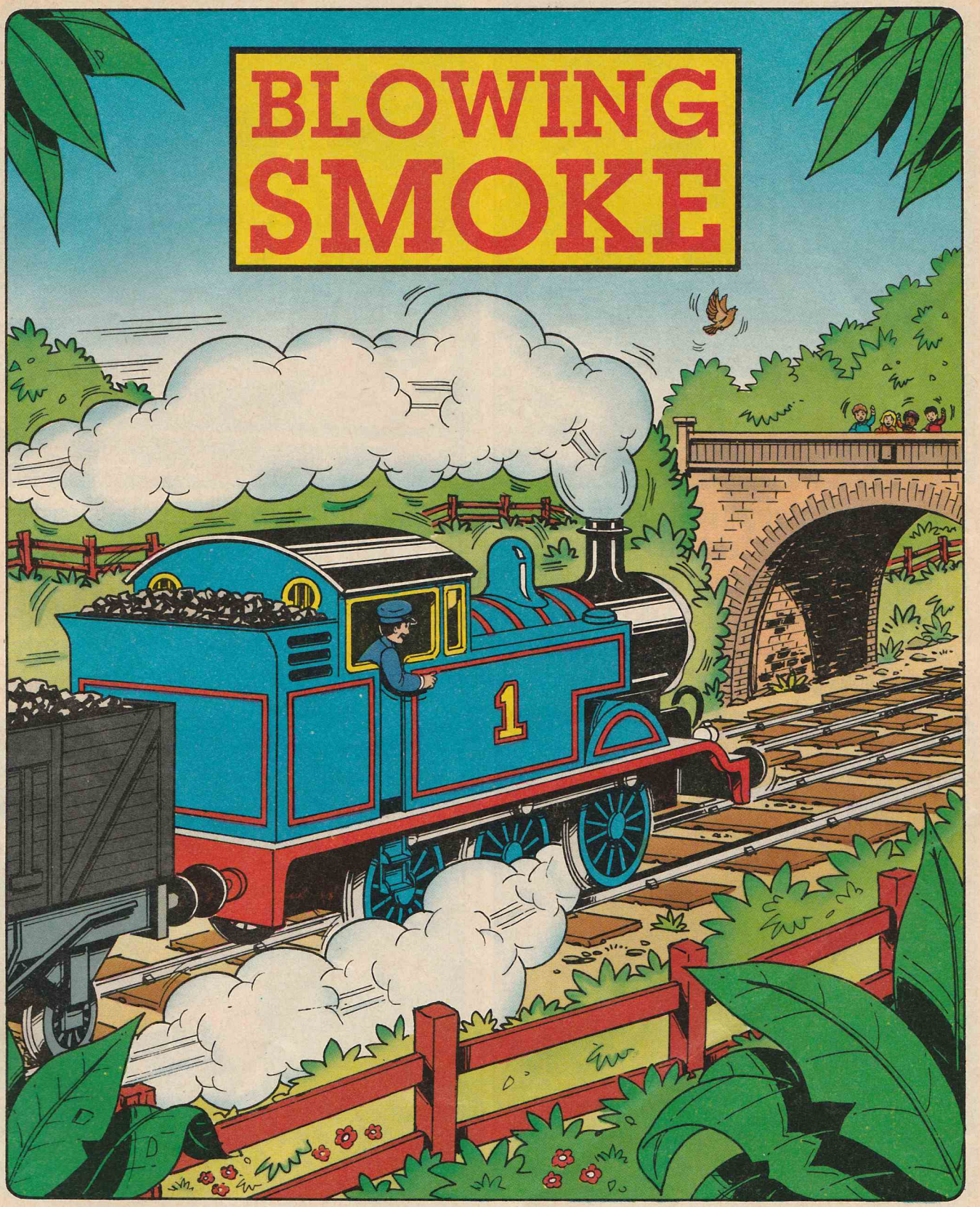
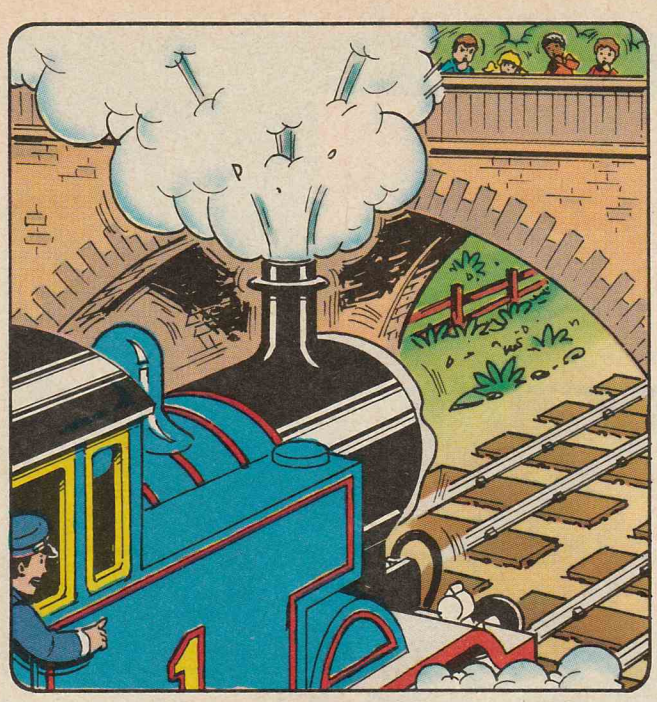
BLOWING SMOKE

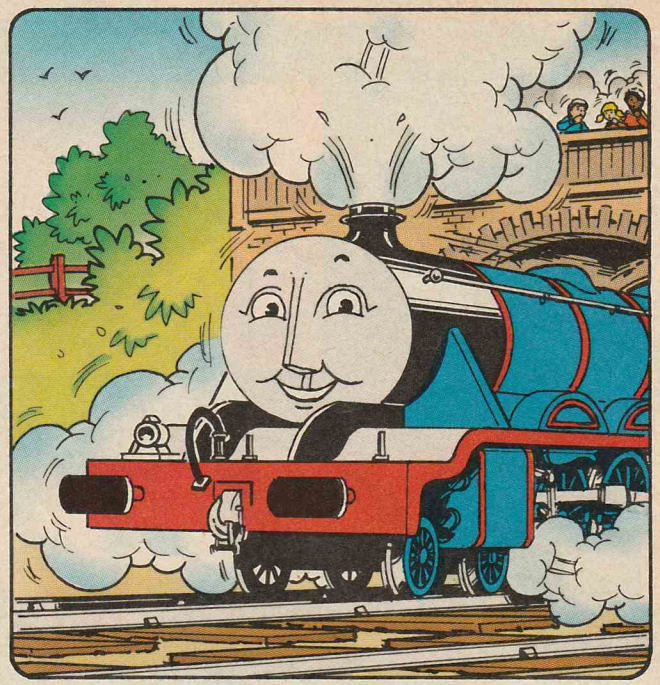


1. Thomas was sent to collect some trucks from the Big Harbour. The trucks were very heavy. Thomas puffed hard, blowing out smoke as he slowly pulled them up Gordon's Hill.

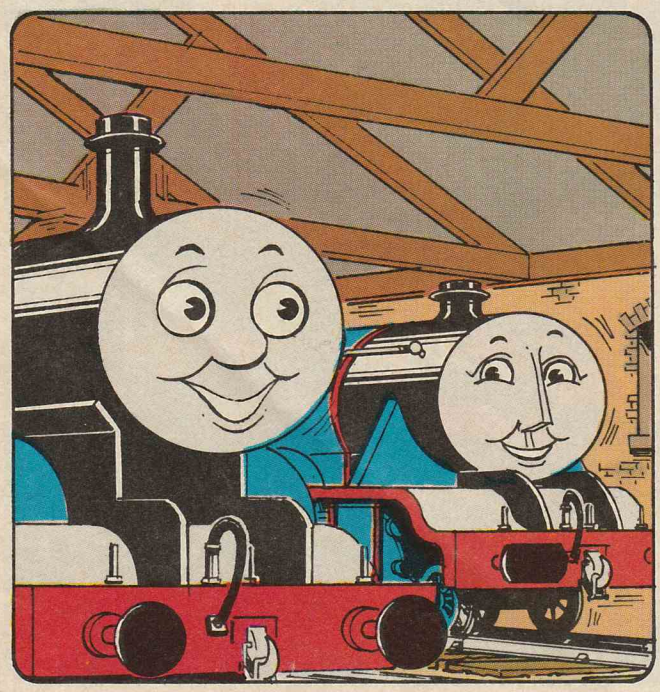
2. There was a bridge at the top of the hill that was regularly visited by young train spotters. Some of the children waved excitedly as Thomas chuffed underneath.



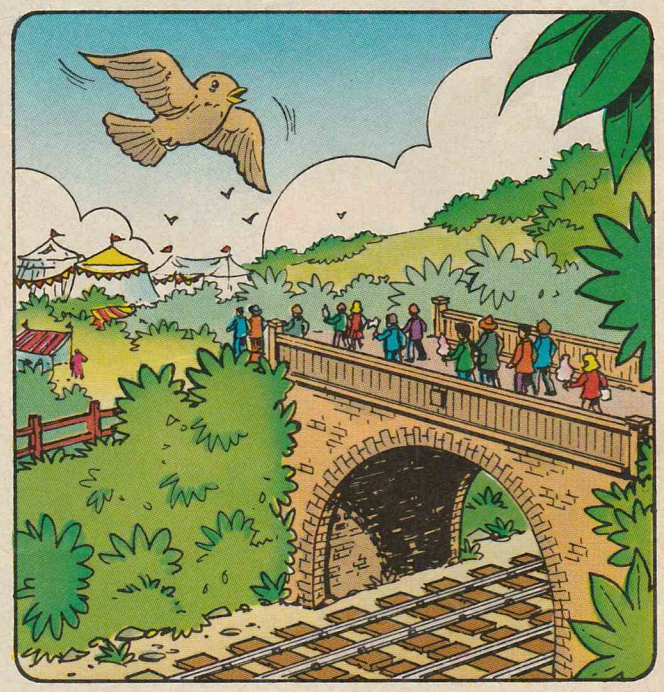
3. "Peep! Peep! Hello!" whistled Thomas. The children coughed as smoke from his funnel blew all over the bridge. Next day, Gordon came past, pulling the Express. He was going very fast indeed!



4. "No one pulls the Express faster than me!" thought Gordon. Gordon puffed out thick smoke, too. It covered the bridge. The children closed their eyes as thick, sooty smoke billowed around them.

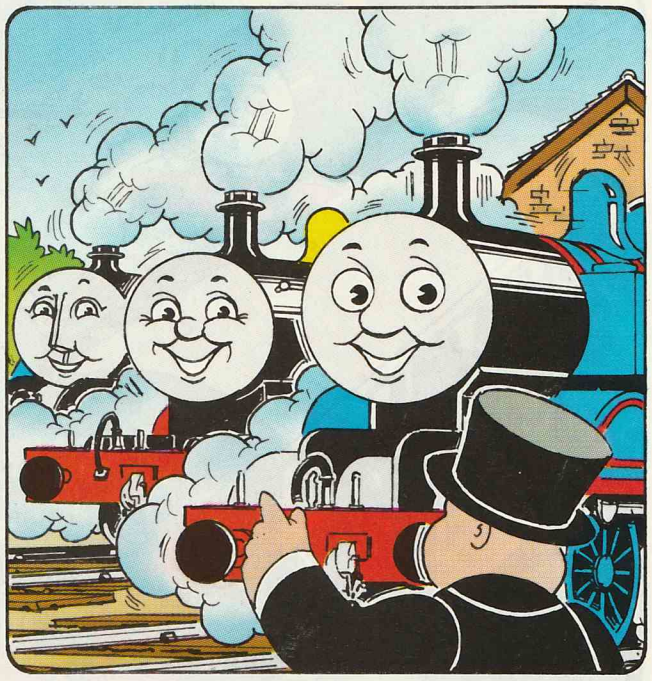


5. That night, the engines were talking in the engine shed. "I saw lots of children on the bridge today?" said Thomas. "Did you, Gordon?" "No," said Gordon. "I was in such a hurry! I could only see smoke!"

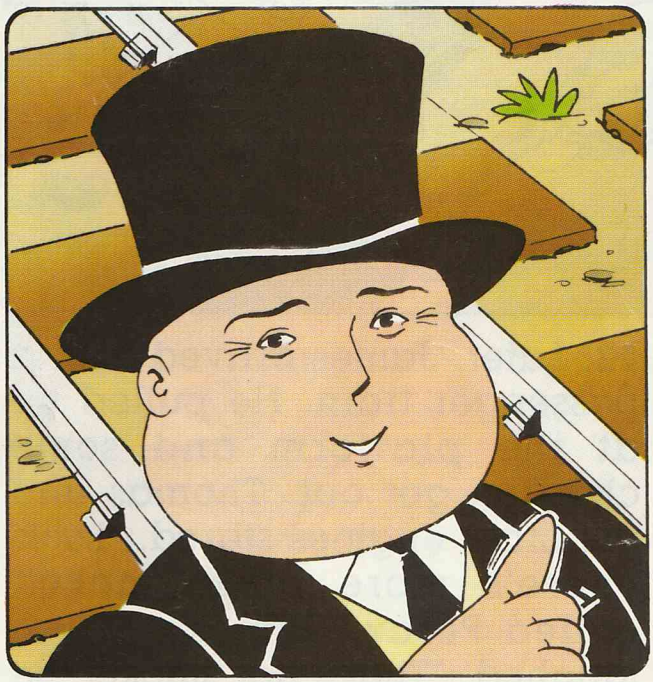


6. Next day, it was especially busy on the bridge at Gordon's Hill. A splendid fête had just opened. There were lots of apple and candyfloss stalls nearby.

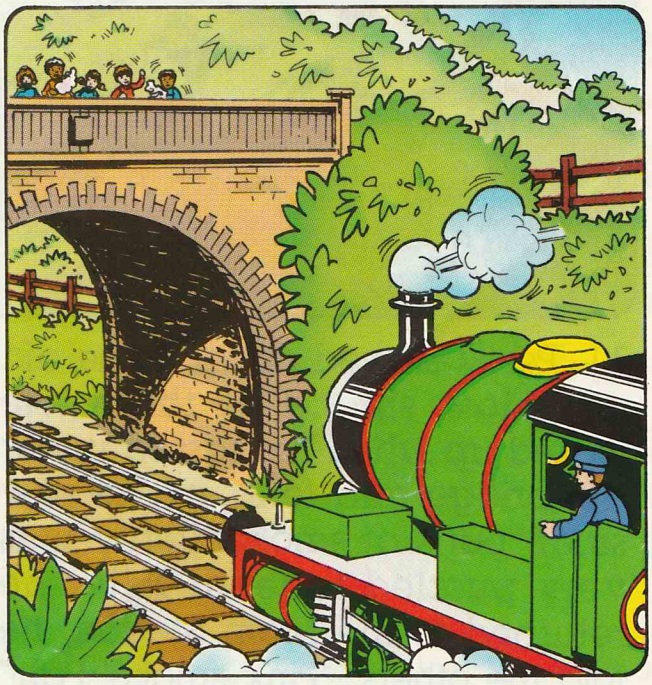
7. Two of the older children on the bridge had decided to telephone the Fat Controller. They told him how the smoke from the engines had blown over the bridge and made their clothes dirty.



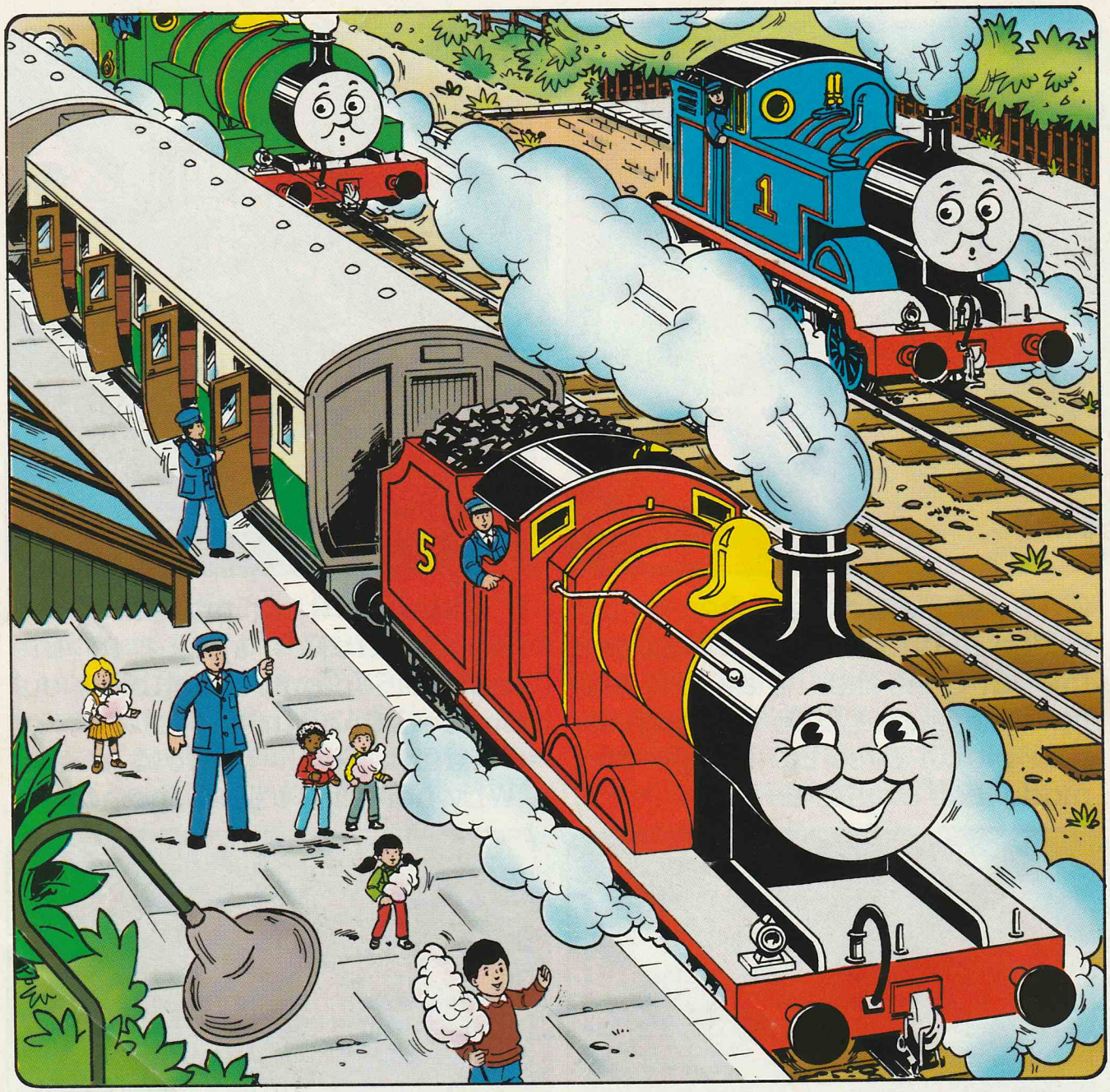
8. The following morning, the Fat Controller spoke to the engines. "You must not blow out smoke beneath the bridge at Gordon's Hill!" he told them. "Why not, sir?" asked Thomas.



9. "The boys and girls on the bridge like to see us puffing smoke!" he added. "Some of the children have told me that the smoke is making their faces and clothes very sooty!" replied the Fat Controller.



10. "Oh, we never thought of that!" said Bill and Ben. "We will be extra careful, sir!" added Thomas. Later, as Percy pulled a goods train, there were children on the bridge again.



11. Percy slowed down so he did not blow smoke at them. He looked up when he passed under the bridge and felt sure he saw small puffs of smoke! Percy was very puzzled indeed. After he returned to the Main Station, he told the others. "Pink smoke! Pah!" said Thomas. "Whoever heard of such a thing?" sniffed Gordon. "It's true!" huffed Percy. But the engines would not believe him.

12. Later, James arrived with a passenger train. He pulled up at the platform and some children got out. Thomas and the other engines stared. "Look! There's more pink smoke!" called Percy. James's driver laughed. "That's not smoke!" he said. "It's candyfloss! Those children bought it at the fête, by Gordon's Hill!" All the engines laughed at Percy's mistake!

THE END!

In our next issue: Harold in a hurry!